
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 1977 - JUNE 30, 1978

DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH
WALTER F. LEWIS
DIRECTOR

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FREDERIC WINTHROP JR.
COMMISSIONER

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

To the Commissioner of Agriculture:

In accordance with Section 38, Section 129, General Laws, Acts of 1932, I herewith submit the report of the Division of Animal Health for the fiscal year, July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978 inclusive.

There can be no successful animal-related agriculture without the control and eradication of livestock disease.

We have entered an unprecedented period of livestock history. The demand and price for all types of livestock is at an all time high even with discounting for inflation. The next several years should offer an exceptional economic opportunity, especially for established producers. Foreign demand for our livestock is a very important factor in this unusual situation. It is very important that disease outbreaks do not jeopardize these good opportunities. From time to time, over the years, the Massachusetts legislature has seen fit to pass laws and then provide funds each year that would help with this important job. This year was no exception. Tuberculosis and Brucellosis are probably the most important diseases since they can be transmitted in a number of ways, from diseased animals to healthy humans.

Brucellosis has been wiped out, thru depopulation, on one of the two farms that were infected at the beginning of this year. New infection was discovered in a large herd. This was depopulated.

Strict attention to surveillances is important if we are to be spared further Brucellosis infection in our cattle herds. Mandatory calfhood vaccination should be of great help if field strain Brucellosis infection breaks out.

Tuberculosis in man and bovine is seldom seen today in Massachusetts. TB has been controlled by guarding against entry of infected animals, strong surveillance at slaughterhouses and the testing of thousands of cattle every year. It was in this routine on the farm testing that TB raised its ugly head in a small Middlesex County herd. Complete depopulation of this herd was being planned at year's end. Complete testing of the entire bovine population on a regular basis is essential to control this disease.

Fortunately another year has passed without an outbreak of hog cholera in Massachusetts and throughout the nation.

On January 31, 1978 the country was declared free of hog cholera. This signaled the very important reopening of export opportunities for pork products.

It is our firm belief that the manifestation of this disease, discovered in Massachusetts in 1976, came from the use of hog cholera vaccine. It is quite possible that the use of this vaccine continued after it was outlawed in 1969.

It is reliably reported that hog cholera vaccine still exists in Massachusetts. It is likely that it will be used again. In view of this situation, plans should be made to continue a surveillance of Massachusetts hogs for the presence of hog cholera titer. It is recommended that every herd be checked at least once per year. Much of this could be accomplished by splitting samples taken in connection with brucellosis eradication and revalidating.

The number of known hog farms with Brucellosis infection is now less than a dozen. Some of those remaining are large. It is possible that complete clean-up will require the implementation of a law making eradication mandatory. A bill will be placed in the legislative channels calling for complete eradication and indemnity. Study may show that a redesigning of import requirements may be in order to protect our farms from reinfection.

The increase prevalence of Pseudorabies in other parts of the United States is a signal for us to study procedures to prevent its entry into Massachusetts. Import requirements should be developed. Surveillance within the state should be established. A laboratory in the state should be designated to develop the capacity to perform the necessary testing procedures to carry on the surveillance. Policy and rules for the use of Pseudorabies vaccine in Massachusetts should be developed.

This devastating foreign disease is traveling toward us at a rapid speed. It is highly probable that it will hop up from Brazil or from the Caribbean via Puerto Rico at any time.

Stronger enforcement of the Garbage Cooking Law is now needed because of the threat that African Swine Fever will enter the United States. The most likely way of entry is through illegal import of pork products on the person of visitors or citizens from countries where African Swine Fever exists. A legal proceeding is now in the planning stage with the Attorney General's Office against a swine raiser who refuses to cook garbage and obtain a permit to feed garbage.

A new law calling for the regulating of Sales and Transportation of horses has been enacted. The implementation of this program thru the depopulation of Rules and Regulations will be a new effort for 1979.

Limited implementation of the law to control drug abuse in draft animal pulling contests was arranged and carried out by our staff. This surveillance was very well received by the contestants who expressed the desire to have the program extended.

Continued progress was made this year in the eradication of E.I.A. in Massachusetts.

Equine Encephalomyelitis was again reported in horses this year. Undoubtedly this resulted from the failure of horse owners to get their animals vaccinated. This calls for an informational and educational program for the coming spring season of 1979.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter F. Lewis
Director

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

There were seven hundred and fifty-seven (757) tuberculin herd tests, thirty-three thousand eight hundred and forty-nine (33,849) animal tests applied to which twenty-five (25) were declared Deviates. Upon comparative cervical retest, many were declared negative and there was one Reactor. The previous fiscal year there were seven hundred and eighty-two (782) tuberculin herd tests and thirty-seven thousand six hundred and sixty-seven (37,667) animal tests applied to which one was reported as a Reactor.

Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) herds containing four thousand six hundred and ninety-three (4,693) head of cattle included in the census report of June 30, 1977 were disposed of by the owners prior to the census period ending June 30, 1978.

Ninety-six (96) herds containing one thousand two hundred and sixty-seven (1,267) head of cattle to which testing has not previously been conducted are included in the census report of the period ending June 30, 1978.

Tuberculin tests are conducted by State and Federal accredited veterinarians under a State and Federal Cooperative Plan for the establishment of tuberculosis free herds and the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

Following is a summary of the tuberculin tests as made by veterinarians for the twelve month period of this report:

	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REACTORS</u>
Veterinarians paid by the State on a salary basis	184	9,110	
Veterinarians paid by the State as Program Agents	572	24,470	1
Veterinarians paid by the Federal Government on a salary basis	1	269	
	<hr/> 757	<hr/> 33,849	<hr/> 1

COUNTY CENSUSAS OFJUNE 30, 1978

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>100 or More Head</u>	
			<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
Barnstable	4	55	-	-
Berkshire	312	13,243	42	6,053
Bristol	258	10,024	21	3,790
Dukes	18	197	-	-
Essex	111	3,569	10	1,709
Franklin	378	13,680	26	4,727
Hampden	199	6,272	13	1,994
Hampshire	332	11,117	27	4,588
Middlesex	155	4,814	12	1,917
Norfolk	71	1,922	2	272
Plymouth	153	6,719	12	4,382
Worcester	574	19,793	41	5,489
Suffolk	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2,565	91,405	206	34,921

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF NEAT CATTLE, HORSES, SWINE, SHEEP, AND GOATS

In accordance with Section 10, Chapter 129 of the General Laws the annual inspection of neat cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats and of the premises where kept was completed.

Reports received from the cities and towns showed that inspection indicated the following information:

COUNTY	HERDS	NEAT CATTLE	HORSES AND PONIES	SWINE HERDS	SWINE HEADS	SHEEP	GOATS
Barnstable	28	107	839	24	79	138	136
Berkshire	409	13,792	1,665	82	486	677	207
Bristol	347	9,368	1,830	115	6,361	452	333
Dukes	33	349	300	22	85	592	167
Essex	169	3,439	2,434	53	3,861	412	208
Franklin	478	15,197	1,395	83	569	311	246
Hampden	283	5,991	1,152	40	1,609	461	129
Hampshire	370	11,175	1,228	79	2,589	1,035	257
Middlesex	201	4,952	3,966	95	5,854	786	323
Nantucket	1	23	82	1	1	28	2
Norfolk	105	1,782	1,795	49	1,652	383	230
Plymouth	248	7,226	2,383	73	3,359	612	406
Suffolk			30				
Worcester	968	23,686	3,909	220	14,169	1,701	526
TOTALS	3,640	97,087	23,008	936	40,674	7,588	3,170

Of the total number of cattle inspected, sixty-five thousand six hundred and seventy-six (65,676) were grade dairy cows, heifers and calves; thirteen thousand nine hundred and eighteen (13,918) were purebred dairy cows, heifers and calves. There were also two hundred and seventy-two (272) purebred bulls listed.

Also there were many miscellaneous animals such as donkeys, roosters, geese, chickens, ducks, turkeys, burros, llamas, oxen, buffalo, mules, deers, fowl, mink.

PRIVATE CALFHOOD VACCINATIONS

(OWNER'S EXPENSE)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
July <u>1977</u>	24	130
August	23	234
September	29	170
October	34	169
November	51	329
December	13	128
January <u>1978</u>	19	167
February	21	87
March	56	351
April	35	220
May	144	1375
June	119	546
TOTAL	568	3906

BRUCELLOSIS

The Brucellosis program has been carried on in accordance with Chapter 527, Acts of 1956.

During the fiscal year 1978 reimbursement to owners was made for five hundred and ten cattle reactors (all grades) amounting to thirty-seven thousand nine hundred seventy-four dollars and thirty-two cents (\$37,974.32).

Listed on the following page is a tabulation of the results of laboratory examination of the blood samples from cattle under this program; also from goats and swine.

BRUCELLOSIS

7/1/77 - 6/30/78

	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Reactors</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>*Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cattle	12,614	5	61	80	12,760
Goats	720		1	3	724
Swine	6,620	590	12	7	7,229
Sheep	2				2
Misc.	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>64</u>
TOTALS	19,959	595	75	150	20,779

*Containers broken, insufficient
amount of serum, hemolyzed.

Miscellaneous: Canine, Deer, Horse

Validated Herds: SWINE

Validated Brucellosis-Free Herds	214
Swine in Validated Brucellosis-Free Herds	3,026

MILK RING TESTS

<u>Negative</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
3,783	115	3,898

GOATS

7/1/77 - 6/30/78

This Division arranges for the tuberculin testing and blood testing of goats provided the owner signs an agreement to the effect that any goats declared as reactors to either test would be immediately disposed of for slaughter with no compensation allowed by the Commonwealth.

Under the new T.B. testing program, goats will be tested on the same basis as cattle, every three years.

RABIES

Under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations Chapter 111, General Laws as amended by Chapter 265, Acts of 1938, Sections 6 and 7 "Dog Bite" is declared a disease dangerous to public health.

Chapter 129, Section 21 of the General Laws, was amended under Chapter 29, Acts of 1963 to read: "All dogs known to have bitten persons shall be quarantined for a period of ten (10) days for observation, at the end of which period, if no symptoms of rabies have developed, said animals may be released from quarantine on order of the Director."

Investigation of reported injuries inflicted to persons by biting dogs and the quarantining of such dogs is one of the duties of the Inspector of Animals.

The brains of six hundred and two (602) animals were sent to Wassermann Laboratory for examination.

The following tabulation is a record of bites inflicted by dogs and other animals.

RABIESBite Cases --- Fiscal Year 1978

	Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Exam	Heads to Lab NEGATIVE	Heads to Lab POSITIVE	Heads to Lab UNSATISFACTORY
<u>1977</u>					
July	1,068	5	78		10
August	972	7	83	5	1
September	818	1	68	3	3
October	843		43		3
November	539		26		2
December	487	3	23		1
<u>1978</u>					
January	456	1	32		3
February	513	2	42		1
March	678		36	1	1
April	573		32		1
May	758		74		4
June	1,129		61	3	1
Totals	8,834	19	558	12	31

RABIESBite Cases --- Fiscal Year 1978

Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Exam	Heads to Lab NEGATIVE	Heads to Lab POSITIVE	Heads to Lab UNSATISFACTORY
Baboons	1			
Bats	1	132	12	16
Calves		1		
Cats	240	72		1
Chipmunks	3	17		
Dogs	8460	140		5
Fox		8		1
Gerbils	16	10		
Guinea Pigs	5	2		
Hamsters	27	16		2
Horses	6			
Mice	15	19		3
Moles	2	2		
Monkeys	6			
Muskrats		1		
Parakeets	2			
Parrots	2			
Pigs	1			
Ponys	3	2		
Porcupines	1			
Rabbits	15	14		
Raccoons	5	20		1
Rats	3	15		
Skunks	5	26		
Squirrels	11	48		2
Turtles	1			
Voles		10		
Wolves	4			
Woodchucks		3		
Total	8,834	558	12	31

CATTLE IMPORTS

7/1/77 - 6/30/78

California	1	New Jersey	6
Canada	10	New York	2115
Colorado	2	Ohio	6
Connecticut	1243	Pennsylvania	128
Florida	13	Rhode Island	93
Illinois	3	Texas	7
Indiana	54	Vermont	294
Iowa	3	Virginia	8
Kentucky	13	Wisconsin	1
Maine	1386		
Maryland	18		
Michigan	1		
Missouri	1		
New Hampshire	463		

TOTAL - 5,869

Five hundred and eighty (580) permits, covering five thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine (5,869) head of cattle were issued.

EXPORTS --- JULY 1, 1977 THRU JUNE 30, 1978

Interstate certificates of health were issued on four thousand three hundred eighty-four (4,384) head of cattle; twenty-six (26) goats; fifty-four (54) sheep; forty-one (41) swine; one (1) pony; and three hundred seventy-two (72) birds, exported to other states and countries, as follows:

CATTLE

<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
Alabama	5	Nevada	3
Arkansas	5	New Hampshire	486
California	54	New Jersey	2
Canada	7	New York	1106
Colorado	5	North Dakota	1
Connecticut	467	North Carolina	5
Florida	482	Ohio	11
Georgia	59	Oregon	27
Illinois	5	Pennsylvania	154
Indiana	107	Rhode Island	346
Kentucky	2	Texas	30
Maine	38	Vermont	904
Maryland	14	Virginia	53
Minnesota	24	Wisconsin	4
Montana	4		
			4,384

GOATS

Florida	3
Maine	7
Missouri	2
New Hampshire	5
Texas	3
Vermont	4
Virgin Islands	4
West Virginia	1
	<u>26</u>

SHEEP

Connecticut	3
New Hampshire	29
New York	13
Ohio	2
Pennsylvania	1
Rhode Island	2
Vermont	4
	<u>54</u>

PONIES

Ohio	1
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SWINE

Maine	17
New Hampshire	5
New York	3
Pennsylvania	16
	<u>41</u>

BIRDS

New Hampshire	372
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PERMITS TO FEED GARBAGE TO SWINE

VESICULAR EXANTHEMA PROGRAM

Chapter 655 - Acts of 1953

Fiscal year 1978

During the fiscal year 1978, one hundred and thirty (130) Permits were issued for Feeding Garbage to Swine.

LICENSE TO DEAL IN PORCINE ANIMALS

In accordance with General Laws, Chapter 129, Secs. 39, 40, 43, as amended by Chapter 312, Acts of 1971, twenty-six (26) Swine Dealer Licenses and thirty (30) plates were issued.

LICENSING OF PET SHOPS

In accordance with Chapter 129, Section 39A of the General Laws, Chapter 993, Acts of 1971, two hundred and forty-two (242) Licenses were issued for the Operation of Pet Shops.

CERTIFICATES OF EQUINE EXAMINATION

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

During the fiscal year 1978, we issued two hundred and thirty-six (236) Certificates of Equine Examination for three hundred and eighty-two (382) horses leaving the state of Mass. for shows, fairs, races, and sales.

We received three hundred and eighty-six (386) Certificates of Equine Examination for seven hundred and seventeen (717) horses that came into the State for exhibition, racing, breeding and for purchase by Mass. horse men. These horses came from thirty-nine (39) States, also, Canada which ninety-one Certificates (91) came in for one hundred and eighty-two (182) horses.

EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS

Equine encephalomyelitis was again reported in horses this year. Undoubtedly this resulted from the failure of horses owners to get their animals vaccinated. This calls for an informational and educational program for the coming spring season of 1979.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

Laryngotracheitis

6 Flocks were placed under
Quarantine

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

(Report of Coggins Test)

July 1, 1977 - June 20, 1978

<u>COUNTY,</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>POSITIVE</u>
Barnstable	515	513	2
Berkshire	739	736	3
Bristol	1,228	1,227	1
Dukes	203	203	0
Essex	2,090	2,089	1
Franklin	500	498	2
Hampden	1,747	1,733	14
Hampshire	844	844	0
Middlesex	2,932	2,929	3
Nantucket	61	61	0
Norfolk	1,393	1,393	0
Plymouth	1,132	1,132	0
Suffolk	797	796	1
Worcester	1,846	1,845	1
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TOTALS	16,027	15,999	28
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LICENSING OF RIDING SCHOOLS AND RIDING INSTRUCTORS

Sections 2A and 2B of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws, with Rules and Regulations promulgated for each section, require the licensing of Horseback Riding Instructors and Riding Schools or Stables.

Since the licensing year for each section runs from April 1st through the following March 31st, there is an occasional overlap between new applications and late renewals or applications within the fiscal year.

A small number of applications for the RIDING INSTRUCTOR License cannot be completed with a result that not every application results in actual licensure.

Between July 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978 the income from section 2A above totalled \$13,774.00 with a breakdown as follows:

162 applications @ 10.00	1620.00
2 duplicates (lost, etc.) @ 2.00	4.00
117 new licenses @ 15.00	1755.00
693 renewals @ 15.00	10395.00
	<u>\$13774.00</u>

Between July 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978 the income from section 2B above totalled \$10,700.00 with a breakdown as follows:

214 applications (new/renewal) @50.00	10,700.00
7 applications (non-profit) at no charge	.00.00
Totals: 221	<u>10,700.00</u>

204 licenses were issued to Stables/Riding Schools, including 7 to non-profit educational institutions which are required to be licensed but for which there is no fee. Also included in the above, carryover for entire fiscal year, are four stables whose licenses were pending M.S.P.C.A. approval and thirteen stables whose late applications had required renewal within the fiscal year.

resp. submitted,

M. A. Owen.

M. A. Owen.
Supervisor, Riding
Academies/Instructors

QUARANTINE STATION AT LITTLETON

Total number of livestock received at the Farmers Live Animal Market Exchange in Littleton from July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978 was as follows:

Cattle	9,921
Calves	11,405
Swine	21,647
Sheep	491
Horses	386
TOTAL	<u>43,850</u>

In addition to FLAME in Littleton, the following animals were received and sold at the Livestock Auction in Easton and the Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc. in Whately, Massachusetts:

EASTON

Cattle	6,609
Calves	6,718
Sheep and Goats	819
TOTAL	<u>14,146</u>

WHATELY

Cattle	4,972
Calves	10,825
Sheep and Goats	1,952
Swine	2,936
TOTAL	<u>20,685</u>

LICENSED DEALERS IN BOVINE ANIMALS

During the fiscal year 1978, there were eighty-eight (88) licenses issued to dealers in dairy and beef cattle, and one hundred and twenty-two (122) plates were sent out for use on the trucks operated by these dealers.

A total of five thousand, six hundred and seventy (5,670) dairy cattle and thirty-five (35) beef cattle were reported by licensed dealers as purchased and sold.